

we get excited about it, and it doesn't need to be done. The fact of the matter is that we can have that energy independence just by using basic freedom.

I'm going to go to my friend from Louisiana. Congressman SCALISE, if you could join us.

Mr. SCALISE. Again, what we're talking about here is this is a proposal that just passed out of committee 2 weeks ago, a very detrimental proposal to our Nation's economy, a proposal that threatens our energy security at a time when we've got proposals and solutions that we've presented that actually would allow America to have energy independence. So it is a true debate between the two parties where we have very different views.

Their proposal is this cap-and-trade energy tax which, literally, to that senior citizen who is on a fixed income—the President's own budget director, President Obama's own budget director, said this proposal, cap-and-trade energy tax, would add another \$1,300 per year to that fixed income senior citizen's electricity bill. Now, I don't know how they're going to go explain that to people, that this is what they're trying to do to them as we're talking about a summer coming up where people want to run their air-conditioning to stay cool. They're going to just tell those people to turn the air-conditioning off.

When people start wondering why we're not developing our own natural resources, in my State of Louisiana and in Dr. FLEMING's own district, my colleague from Louisiana, the largest natural gas find in the history of our country was found just 3 years ago in Haynesville, enough natural gas to supply all of our country's natural gas needs for 10 years.

And then in my colleague from Pennsylvania, Congressman THOMPSON's district, another find, the Marselles find, which could be even bigger. They're just discovering how big that find is, could be even bigger than the Haynesville find.

We've got kinds of natural resources: oil, natural gas, clean coal, not to mention the nuclear capability that Europe and other countries have gone to in large proportions, that we are denying by policy, and they're saying don't use our own natural resources, which then increases dependence on Middle Eastern oil. We're trying to put up a proposal here to say let's use our own nat-

ural resources, not send jobs to China and India like cap-and-trade, not raise people's electricity bills. We've got the ability to create our own energy independence and secure our future while creating good jobs, and that's the true difference right now between their cap-and-trade energy tax and our American Energy Solutions Act, which is a very different approach to a comprehensive energy national policy.

Mr. AKIN. Just reclaiming my time, I think you're being reasonable. You're talking about there's a contrast, two different approaches to solving where we're going with energy. And one of them is we're going to use the instrument of a great big tax increase and a lot of government regulations, and the other one is free enterprise.

What you're talking about is the fact that you're exploring. You're talking about finding more natural gas. I don't know if people are aware of it, but by things that have been passed on this congressional floor, eighty-some percent of our continental shelves are off limits for any exploration. What's the logic of that? I remember thinking the reason that the liberals didn't like nuclear was because of the waste, and yet we had a 100 percent vote in the Science Committee not to recycle nuclear waste.

I appreciate your joining us tonight. I think these are things that are of importance to Americans.

Thank you all. And thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and through June 15 on account of medical reasons (surgery).

Mr. SULLIVAN (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the month on account of illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CUMMINGS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today, June 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, today, June 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, June 3, 4 and 5.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today, June 3, 4 and 5.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Shiite Personal Status Law in Afghanistan violates the fundamental human rights of women and should be repealed; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on May 21, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 627. To amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 131. To establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 3, 2009, at 10 a.m.

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the first and second quarter of 2009 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

##### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO REPUBLIC OF CUBA, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 3 AND APR. 7, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Barbara Lee .....	4/3	4/7	Republic of Cuba .....		680.00		(3)		787.02		1,467.02
Hon. Emanuel Cleaver .....	4/3	4/7	Republic of Cuba .....		680.00		(3)		416.66		1,096.66